

# Nightclub occupancy based on tight fit

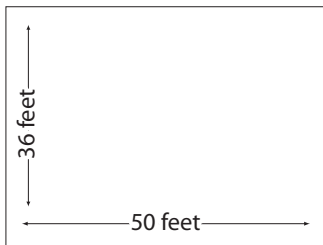
The city of Chicago uses a formula to determine occupancy limits for different types of rooms. Based on the city's ordinance, nightclubs must allow 6 square feet per person.

## DETERMINING AN OCCUPANCY LIMIT

The following example explains how Chicago determines occupancy limits for nightclubs:

### TOTAL AREA

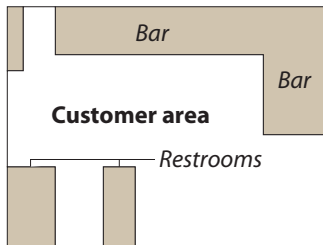
The total area of the room is measured.



**1,800 square feet**  
(Total area)

### CUSTOMER AREA

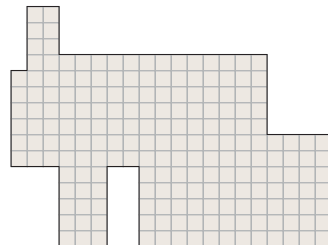
The area occupied by fixed structures is subtracted to determine the customer area.



**600 sq. ft.** = **1,200 sq. ft.**  
(Fixed structures) (Customer area)

### OCCUPANCY LIMIT

The customer area is divided by 6 to derive the occupancy limit.

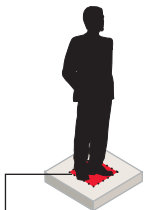


**6** = **200**  
(Square ft. per person) (Occupancy limit)

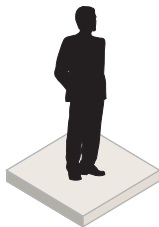
## OCCUPANCY VARIANTS

The number of square feet per person that varies for different types of assembly areas.

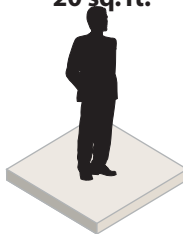
Nightclubs/bars  
**6 sq. ft.**



Restaurants  
**15 sq. ft.**



Museums/libraries  
school classroom  
**20 sq. ft.**



Day-care center  
classroom  
**35 sq. ft.**



**Crushing point**: About 1.5 square feet per person. If the space surrounding a person is reduced from this point, compressive asphyxiation may occur.